

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02 SSM-05

SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 DODE-00 SCCT-01 /073 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MKBERRY:DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
EUR/P - MR. JERABEK
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
SSM - MR. MCANDREW
NEA/ARP - MR. DICKMAN
AF/P - MR. POPE
NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

----- 106468

O 122238Z AUG 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
USMISSION SINAI
CINCEUR

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 12, 1976

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FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 12,
1976:

---I HAVE A BRIEF STATEMENT ON THE TRAGIC TERRORIST ATTACK
IN ISTANBUL YESTERDAY.

---MANY INNOCENT PERSONS WERE INJURED, AND FOUR PERSONS WERE
SENSELESSLY KILLED IN THIS ATTACK. ONE OF THE FOUR WAS
MR. HAROLD ROSENTHAL, AN ASSISTANT TO SENATOR JACOB JAVITS,
WHO WAS ON HIS WAY TO TEL AVIV.

---WE PROFOUNDLY LAMENT THE DEATH OF MR. ROSENTHAL AND
EXTEND OUR DEEP SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY.

---IT IS FORTUNATE, INDEED, THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS NOT
SEIZED AND THAT A STILL GREATER TRAGEDY DID NOT TAKE PLACE.

---WE CONDEMN THIS SAVAGE ATTACK. THE UNITED STATES GOVERN-
MENT HAS LONG HELD THAT THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD SHOULD
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JOIN TOGETHER TO ELIMINATE THE SCOURGE OF INTERNATIONAL

TERRORISM. WE HOPE THAT THE ISTANBUL ATTACK, ALONG WITH
THE RECENT AIR FRANCE HIJACKING TO UGANDA, WILL PROD THE
LEADERS OF THE WORLD INTO TAKING POSITIVE ACTION ON
THE QUESTION OF TERRORISM.

---THIS IS AN ISSUE THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED IN THE UNITED

NATIONS, AND IT IS A MATTER OF THE GREATEST URGENCY.

Q. WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY MUST BE ADDRESSED BY THE UN?
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT SOME SPECIFIC PLAN TO BRING IT
BEFORE THE UN THIS YEAR?

A. WE KNOW THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY HAS
PROPOSED A PLAN WITH REGARD TO INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM,
AND THE UNITED STATES HAS ALREADY ANNOUNCED ITS SUPPORT
FOR SUCH A PLAN; AND WE WILL BE LENDING FULL SUPPORT TO
A DISCUSSION OF THIS PLAN OR ANY OTHER PLAN WHICH COULD BE
DEVELOPED WITH REGARD TO COMBATTING INTERNATIONAL
TERRORISM.

Q. THE REPORTS FROM ISTANBUL SAY THAT THE TERRORISTS WERE
EITHER FINANCED OR, IN FACT, DIRECTED BY LIBYA. DO YOU
HAVE ANY INFORMATION TO THAT EFFECT?

A. I DO NOT HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THAT. WHAT I HAVE
IS, I AM TOLD, SUBSTANTIALLY WHAT HAS APPEARED IN THE
MEDIA. WE UNDERSTAND IT IS NOT YET CERTAIN OF THE PRECISE
IDENTITY OF THE TERRORISTS BUT THAT THE TURKISH SECURITY
AUTHORITIES HAVE ARRESTED TWO TERRORISTS AND THAT ONE
TERRORIST WAS KILLED.

Q. THEY'VE BEEN IDENTIFIED, IN THE MEDIA AT LEAST, AS
BELONGING TO THE PFLP.

A. WE UNDERSTAND THEY APPEAR TO BE PALESTINIANS AND WE
HAVE SEEN THE NEWS REPORTS THAT THEY BELONG TO THE PFLP,
BUT WE HAVE NO INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION OF THAT AT THIS
TIME.

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Q. THE PFLP IS A PART OF THE PLO. I ASKED THE OTHER DAY
WHETHER OR NOT THE STATE DEPARTMENT STILL REGARDS THE PLO
AS A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION. CAN I REPEAT THIS QUESTION
NOW AND GET AN ANSWER?

A. JOE, I THINK WE GAVE YOU AN ANSWER ON THAT PREVIOUSLY.
THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE PLO HAS
BEEN EXPOUNDED IN THE UNITED NATIONS FORUM AND ON OTHER
OCCASIONS, AND I SUGGEST YOU GO BACK AND READ THE VARIOUS

THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN SAID WITH REGARD TO OUR ATTITUDE
TOWARDS THE PLO AND OUR POLICY IN THAT REGARD AND I AM
NOT GOING TO GET INTO A LENGTHY CHARACTERIZATION OF IT
HERE.

Q. WELL, WE'RE NOT ASKING FOR A LENGTHY CHARACTERIZATION. ALL I'M ASKING IS: IN THE VIEW OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT, IS THE PLO A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION -- YES OR NO?

A. I AM GOING TO REFER YOU AGAIN TO WHAT IS A MATTER OF RECORD IN THE UNITED NATIONS OVER RECENT MONTHS ON THIS SUBJECT.

Q. NOW THAT THE SECRETARY IS BACK, IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY, FOR THOSE OF US WHO DIDN'T HAVE THE BENEFIT OF BEING ON THE TRIP TO GET SOME KIND OF CLARIFICATION ON WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE 10 MILLION DOLLAR ARMS SALES AGREEMENT WITH IRAN, WHICH WAS ANNOUNCED DURING THE COURSE OF THE VISIT? THE PROBLEM THAT BOTHERS ME IS WHETHER THAT 10 BILLION DOLLARS INCLUDES ITEMS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN CONTRACTED FOR AND SOLD BUT NOT YET DELIVERED TO IRAN, WHICH WOULD BE 6 BILLION DOLLARS ALREADY, OR WHETHER IT'S 10 BILLION DOLLARS IN NEW ITEMS. ONE WOULD ASSUME, SINCE THE TIME FRAME GIVEN WAS 1975 TO 1980, IT INCLUDES SOME STUFF THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN CONTRACTED FOR AND SOLD. DO YOU HAVE ANSWER, OR COULD YOU --

A. I HAVE NOTHING WITH ME ON THAT AT ALL. I CAN SEEK FURTHER INFORMATION ON THAT, BUT THAT SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH, IN GENERAL TERMS IN ANY EVENT, IN TEHRAN AT THE JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE AND THE JOINT UNCLASSIFIED

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STATEMENTS BY THE IRANIAN MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY, MR. ANSARY, AND THE SECRETARY.

---I HAVE NOTHING MORE THAN WHAT IS CONTAINED IN THE TRANSCRIPT OF THOSE MEETINGS.

Q. FRED, I HAVE READ THE TRANSCRIPT WITH CARE AND I SIMPLY CONFESS THAT I AM INCAPABLE OF UNDERSTANDING THE SUBTLETIES OF IT AND APPEAL TO YOU TO TRY AND GET SOME UNDERSTANDING OF THIS ISSUE.

A. I WILL SEE WHAT I CAN GET IN TERMS OF CLARIFICATION, BUT OBVIOUSLY, WHEN YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT A \$10 BILLION DEAL -- AND A PROJECTION OVER A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD OF UP TO \$50 MILLION IN TRADE GOING BOTH WAYS -- I DO NOT THINK WE ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU A LINE-BY-LINE

READOUT OF WHAT IT MIGHT BE --

Q. NO, NO I AM NOT QUESTIONING -- THE QUESTION IS: IS THIS NEW STUFF, OR DOES IT INCLUDE STUFF THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN SOLD?

A. LET ME GET SOME KIND OF ANSWER FOR YOU ON THAT SUBJECT, SCOTT.

Q. YESTERDAY THE SECRETARY SPOKE ABOUT ALL PARTIES JOINING IN A ROUNDTABLE TO TRY TO SOLVE THE SITUATION IN LEBANON. AND I ASKED WHETHER OR NOT THE PLO IS INCLUDED IN THE "ALL." AND YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT TRYING TO GET SOME CLARIFICATION OF WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID.

A. THE TERM "ALL PARTIES" MEANS ALL LEBANESE PARTIES. PERIOD.

Q. WELL, THEN THAT EXCLUDES THE PALESTINIANS.

A. IT MEANS ALL LEBANESE PARTIES.

Q. WELL, CAN YOU SAY YES, OR NO, ON WHETHER IT EXCLUDES THE PALESTINIANS?

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A. IT DOES NOT INCLUDE THE PLO

Q. IT DOES NOT INCLUDE THE PLO. O.K.

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